

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /067 W

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R 040158Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3205

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 2344

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, LA

SUBJ: CALL ON SOVIET AMBASSADOR

1. I PAID A FAREWELL CALL ON SOVIET AMBASSADOR VDOVINE
APRIL 3. HE WAS MOST CORDIAL AS USUAL AND HE IS GIVING
A LUNCH FOR ME NEXT WEEK.

2. AFTER CHATTING ABOUT MY ASSIGNMENT TO BANGKOK,
VDOVINE ASKED FOR MY IMPRESSIONS OF THE SITUATION HERE.
I SAID THAT IN MY VIEW RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN CAMBODIA
AND VIETNAM WOULD DOUBTLESS LEAD TO GREATER MILITANCY
ON THE PART OF THE PATHET LAO BUT THAT I WAS CONFIDENT
THAT THE DEVELOPMENTS IN LAOS IN COMING MONTHS WOULD
BE VERY SIMILAR TO THOSE WHICH WE HAVE OBSERVED SINCE
THE FORMATION OF THE COALITION GOVERNMENT. I SAID
IT APPEARED TO ME THAT THE PATHET LAO FACED SEVERAL
DILEMMAS AND FOR THIS REASON THEIR POLICY WAS NOT
ALWAYS CLEAR. THERE WAS, FOR EXAMPLE, THE AMERICAN
DILEMMA. WERE WE THE IMPERIALIST ENEMY IMPLACABLY
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COMMITTED TO THE OVERTHROW OF THE REGIME OR WERE WE
SINCERELY TRYING TO BE HELPFUL TO LAOS AS IT GOES

INTO A NEW ERA? IT SEEMED TO ME THAT THE PATHET LAO MET THIS DILEMMA BY ASSUMING THE FIRST ALTERNATIVE WAS TRUE IN THEIR POLEMICS AND THAT THE SECOND WAS TRUE IN THEIR OFFICIAL CONTACTS WITH US. SIMILARLY, I FELT THE PATHET LAO WERE IN A REVOLUTIONARY DILEMMA. WERE THEY MILITANT REVOLUTIONARIES COMMITTED TO THE RELENTLESS PURSUIT OF THEIR OBJECTIVES OR WERE THEY NATIONALISTIC REFORMERS IMBUED WITH SOCIALIST CONCEPTS?

3. VDOVINE AGREED THAT THESE DILEMMAS WERE REAL AND STRESSED AS HE HAS IN THE PAST THAT ONE SHOULD NOT TAKE PATHET LAO PROPAGANDA TOO SERIOUSLY. ON THE QUESTION OF PATHET LAO REVOLUTIONARY ARDOR, HE EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THE PATHET

LAO "WERE REASONABLE" AND WOULD ACT IN A MANNER CONSONANT WITH WHAT THEY CONSIDERED TO BE THE LAO NATIONAL INTEREST. I ASKED WHETHER HE BELIEVED THIS REASONABLE POSITION APPLIED TO KAYSON AND NOUHAK IN THEIR CAVES OR WHETHER THEY GOT UP EVERY MORNING AND PLEDGED THEMSELVES TO ANOTHER DAY OF REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITY. VDOVINE REPLIED THAT HE THOUGHT THAT THERE WAS LITTLE DIFFERENCE IN THE POINTS OF VIEW HELD BY THE PARTY MEMBERS STILL IN SAM NEUA AND THE PATHET LAO REPRESENTATIVES PARTICIPATING IN THE GOVERNMENT.

4. VDOVINE SAID HE WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH HIS COLLEAGUE IN BANGKOK, WHOM HE DESCRIBED AS FRIENDLY AND OUTGOING. HE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT MY RELATIONS WITH HIM WOULD BE AS FRANK AND CORDIAL AS OURS HAVE BEEN. WHITEHOUSE

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